



News Release

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Susan Poff, Public Affairs Officer
Dallas VA Medical Center
4500 South Lancaster Road, Dallas, TX 75216
214 857-1158 (daytime)
972 533-0519 (after hours)
susan.poff@med.va.gov

May 24, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

North Texas Veterans Winners in National Competition

DALLAS – The 20th National Veterans Golden Age Games were held May 7-12 in Hampton, Va. Sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Ladies Auxiliary (VFW), and Veterans Canteen Service (VCS), the competition attracted more than 500 veterans from across the nation, aged 55 and older, and currently receiving care at a VA medical facility. The National Veterans Golden Age Games serves as a qualifier for the National Senior Olympics to be held June 29 – July 14, 2007 in Louisville, Ky.

The Games bring together veterans from all branches of military service who served in times of war and peace. Participants compete in open, wheelchair and visually impaired divisions in specific age groups. Veterans who served during the war in Vietnam now make up the largest group of competitors, although there are also large numbers of men and women who served in World War II and the Korean War.

This year VA North Texas Health Care System sponsored 36 veterans to compete in this national event, who won a team total of 40 medals. Competitors with their accomplishments are listed in alphabetical order. John Ames of Waxahachie won silver in air rifle and bronze in checkers; Robert Blatnik of Rowlett, gold in shot put, swimming (2 events), and horseshoes; Tommy Brown of Dallas, gold in bowling and bronze in horseshoes; James Caldwell of Durant, Okla., gold in checkers and silver in dominoes; Norman Cross of Duncanville, silver in shuffleboard, table tennis and bowling; Alipio Garcia of Dallas, bronze in air rifle; Jerry Hull of Milford, gold in swimming; John John, Jr. of Mansfield, bronze in golf; George Krupa of Bonham, bronze in shuffleboard; JoAn Lance of Chireno, gold in bowling; Clyde Mays of Lancaster, silver in table tennis and dominoes; Melvin Miller of Dallas, bronze in horseshoes; Andrew Onifer of Bonham, silver in table tennis and checkers; David Owens of

Decatur, bronze in discus, shot put, and bowling, and silver in table tennis; Al Rega of Thackerville, Okla., gold in shuffleboard; Jack Richardson of Carrollton, gold in nine ball and bronze in bowling; Rhoderick Sexton of Dallas, silver in air rifle; Michael Silverstein of Rockwall, bronze in swimming; Frank Spitzig of Irving, gold in croquet; Freddy Tamez of Red Oak, bronze in nine ball and bowling; Claude Vaughn of Sherman, gold in shuffleboard and silver in horesehoes; Donald Wood of Glenn Heights, bronze in shuffleboard and silver in bowling; and Ronald Woodruff of Wolfe City, silver in air rifle.

These veterans competed in several events, including 9-ball, golf, table tennis, shuffleboard, checkers, bowling, dominoes swimming and bicycling: Mannie Allen, Jr. of Sunnyvale; Golia Barnett of Fort Worth; Darlene Cathman of Fort Worth; Curtis Diggles of Dallas; Lonnie Dorsey of DeSoto; Clyde Harris of Fort Worth; Jimmie Lynch of Dallas; Houston Brumit of Denison; Ronald Davey of Bonham; Ilene Dawson of Bonham; Joseph Hernandez of Bonham, Cornelius Lynch of Bonham; and John Strickland of Bonham.

#